

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SOFIA 01283 251113Z

50

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 NIC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01 SAJ-01 EA-11

/153 W

----- 054746

R 251000Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7053

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW 841

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 1283

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT ENDS

REF: A. SOFIA 1263; B. SOFIA 1256

1. PRESS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER BREZHNEV'S FOUR-DAY VISIT TO BULGARIA (ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS TEXT) SHEDS LITTLE ADDITIONAL LIGHT EITHER ON MOTIVES BEHIND TRIP OR ON SUBSTANCE OF HIS TALKS WITH BCP LEADERSHIP. WE FIND THAT VISIT RAISES MORE QUESTIONS THAN IT ANSWERS. FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE ANOMALIES WHICH WE FIND NOTEWORTHY.

2. PREPARATION AND TIMING OF VISIT SEEMED HAPHAZARD AND IMPROVISED. EVEN ZHIVKOV SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY REMARKED IN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SOFIA 01283 251113Z

SEPTEMBER 23 SPEECH AT MIKAILOVGRAD THAT SOFIA WELCOME FOR

BREZHNEV "COULD NOT HAVE BEEN STAGED BY THE BEST DIRECTOR". STAGED IT WAS, OF COURSE, BUT WITHOUT USUAL PRECISION AND CARE WE WOULD EXPECT. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT BREZHNEV INTENDED TO DEPART ONE DAY EARLIER BUT DELAYED FOR UNKNOWN REASONS.

3. ABSENCE OF BCP SECRETARY BORIS VELCHEV THROUGHOUT VISIT IS IRREGULAR AND IS CAUSE OF ALL KINDS OF SPECULATION, MOST OF WHICH EVOLVES AROUND HIS HARD-LINE POSITION ON MACEDONIA. SHOULD HE FAIL TO APPEAR IN NEXT FEW DAYS SPECULATION WILL NO DOUBT GROW, NOT ONLY ABOUT HIS FUTURE FATE, BUT ALSO ABOUT HIS PRESENT SITUATION.

4. CONTRARY TO PAST PRACTICE, VIRTUALLY NO MENTION MADE BY BREZHNEV OR ZHIVKOV ABOUT BULGARIAN'S SPECIAL ROLE IN BALKANS. PRAISE FOR GOB'S "BALKAN PEACE POLICY" HAS BECOME STANDARD FARE FOR ALL BILATERAL COMMUNIQUE AND FAILURE OF BREZHNEV TO CONFER HIS BLESSING INDICATES SOME DIFFERENCES OF OPINION IN THIS AREA. GREEK AND ALBANIAN DIPLOMATS IN SOFIA, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, FIND THIS UNUSUAL AND BELIEVE THAT IT SIGNIFIES MAJOR SOVIET EFFORT TO WRING CONCESSIONS OUT OF BULGARS ON MACEDONIA QUESTION ON EVE OF KOSYGIN VISIT TO BELGRADE.

5. ONE OTHER POSSIBLE DIFFERENCE SURFACED IN COMMUNIQUE WHICH STATES THAT SIDES "EXCHANGED OPINIONS" OVER SITUATION IN INDO-CHINA. THIS FORMULATION IS UNUSUAL FOR GOB-USSR COMMUNIQUE, AND ALTHOUGH WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY SPECIAL BULGARIAN INTEREST IN INDO-CHINA, MAY BE REFLECTION BULGARS DESIRE FOR TOUGH LINE ON SUBJECT FAR FROM BULGARIA.

6. EMPHASIS ON BILATERAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION ESPECIALLY ZHIVKOV'S FORMULATION ON "ONE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM" IS STRONGEST STATEMENT YET ON BILATERAL COORDINATION IN ALL SPHERES OF LIFE. WHILE WE DO NOT SHARE VIEW THAT BULGARS ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE SOME SORT OF FEDERATION WITH USSR, THIS FEAR HAS BEEN VOICED BY SOME BULGARS WE KNOW. IT IS OBVIOUSLY ISSUE ABOUT WHICH POPULATION FEELS UNEASY. MOTIVES AND SUBSTANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SOFIA 01283 251113Z

ARE UNCLEAR BUT WE ARE INCLINED TO TAKE ZHIVKOV AT FACE VALUE WHEN HE SAYS THAT JULY 1973 PLENUM AGREED ON NEW QUALITATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH USSR.

7. COMMUNIQUE STATEMENT THAT GOB-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE "EXAMPLE OF GENUINE FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST STATES AND PEOPLES, ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM" IS NOT LIKELY TO GO OVER

WELL IN OTHER EE CAPITALS. EMPHASIS ON SOCIALIST ENTRY
IN PERIOD OF DETENTE IS NOT NEW, BUT USE OF BULGARIAN
"SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" AS KIND OF PARAGON WAS STRONGEST
THEME OF VISIT.

8. CAST OF CHARACTERS AT 18 SEPTEMBER MEETING IN RAZGRAD
IS ALSO UNUSUAL. PRESUMABLY MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO
FOREIGN AFFAIRS (SINCE SECRETARY CONSTANTINE TELLALOV
AND ACTING FONMIN TRAYKOV LISTED AS MAJOR GOB
PARTICIPANTS). AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, DIMITUR
METHODIEV, CANDIDATE MEMBER CC AND EX-PRESIDENT
WRITERS' UNION LISTED AS ATTENDING. METHODIEV IS OBSCURE
FIGURE WHO ONE WOULD NOT EXPECT TO SEE AT SUCH HIGH-LEVEL
GATHERING. ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT BREZHNEV
WAS GIVING MARCHING ORDERS TO GET BULGARIAN INTELLECTUALS
IN LINE (REFTEL B) BUT EVEN HERE, IT WOULD NOT BE
NECESSARY TO LIST METHODIEV AS PARTICIPANT, NOR WOULD
WE EXPECT THIS TO BE MAJOR ISSUE TO BE HANDLED AT
HIGHEST LEVEL.

9. WHILE BY NO MEANS CLEAR, MOST OBSERVERS IN SOFIA HAVE
VAGUE FEELING THAT, DESPITE RINGING ENDORSEMENT OF
SOVIET-BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP, SOMETHING IS AWRY IN RELATION-
SHIP. WHETHER IT WAS EXACERBATED OR SOOTHED AS RESULT OF
SUMMIT REMAINS TO BE SEEN AND WILL BE SUBJECT OF MUCH
SCRUTINY IN COMING WEEKS.
BATJER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SOFIA01283
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730912/aaaaaijg.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. SOFIA 1263; B. SOFIA 1256
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <07-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV VISIT ENDS
TAGS: PFOR, BU, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005